STAR WARS
OBI-WAN & ANAKIN
SOULE
CHECCHETTO
MOSSA
MARVEL
004

OBI-WAN AND ANAKIN

Part IV

Young Anakin Skywalker has become unsure of his place within the Jedi Order despite Obi-Wan Kenobi's efforts to get him to stay.

When Anakin and Obi-Wan receive a distress call summoning them to the ruined world Carnelion IV, the two are caught up in a battle between two warring factions of the planet's primitive residents. When the fighting ends, three native survivors strike a truce in order that they might travel with the Jedi to safety.

During the ensuing airship journey, Anakin is befriended by Kolara. She and Mother Pran, her companion, note Anakin's affinity with technology. Seeing a possible path to victory in their endless war, they abduct the young Jedi, separating the Padawan from his master. Mother Pran and Kolara take Anakin and escape the airship, pausing only to shoot it out of the sky--with Obi-Wan still aboard....

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

MARCO CHECCHETTO
Artist/Cover Artist

ANDRES MOSSA
Colors

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
Letterer

HEATHER ANTOS
Assistant Editor

JORDAN D. WHITE
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Executive Editor

AXEL ALONSO
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Chief Creative Officer

DAN BUCKLEY
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For Lucasfilm:
Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN
Senior Editor FRANK PARISI
Lucasfilm Story Group RAYNE ROBERTS, PABLO HIDALGO, LELAND CHEE, MATT MARTIN

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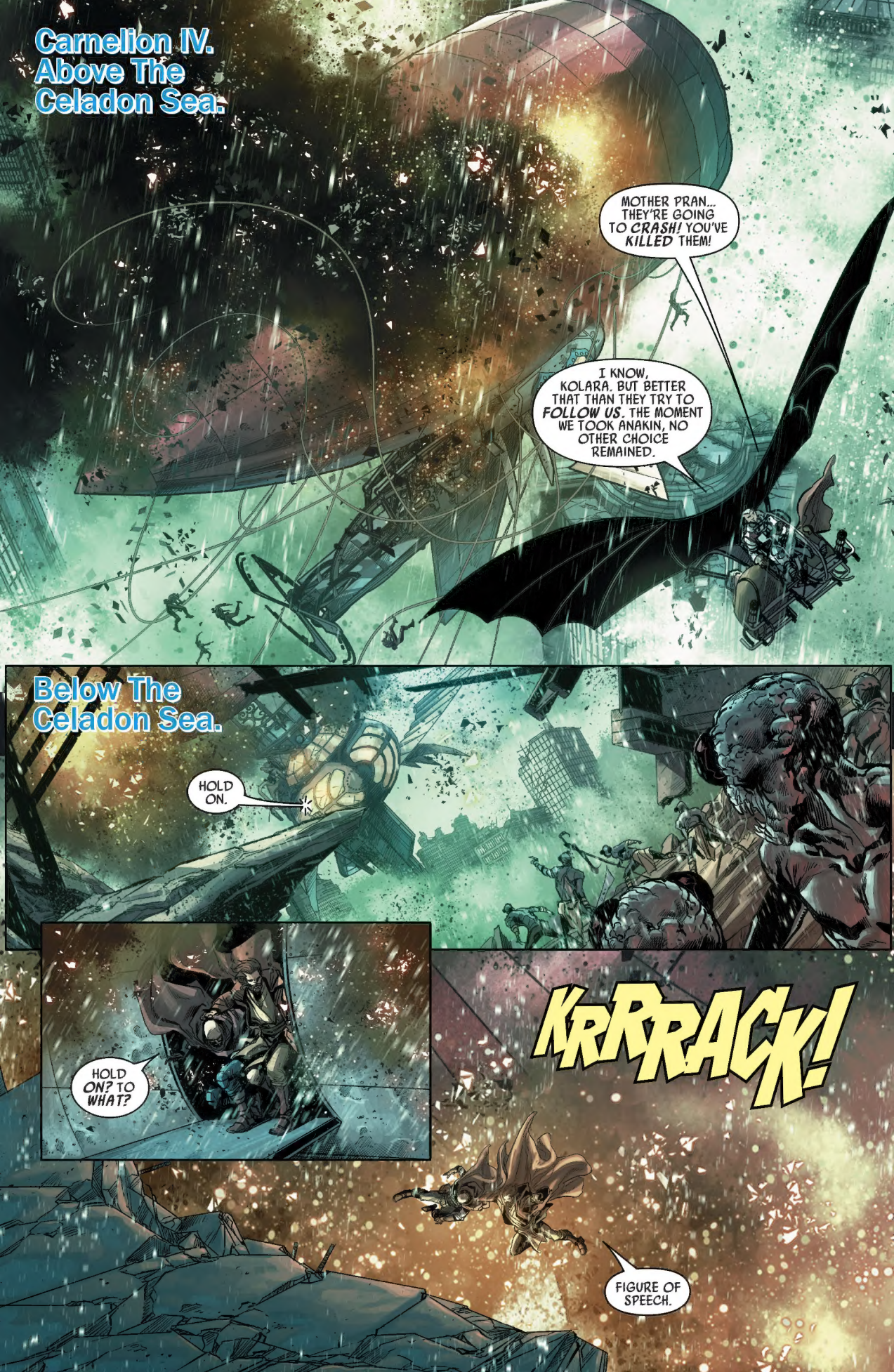

Carnelion IV.
Above The
Celadon Sea.
MOTHER PRAN... THEY'RE GOING TO CRASH! YOU'VE KILLED THEM!
I KNOW, KOLARA. BUT BETTER THAT THAN THEY TRY TO FOLLOW US. THE MOMENT WE TOOK ANAKIN, NO OTHER CHOICE REMAINED.
Below The
Celadon Sea.
HOLD ON.
HOLD ON? TO WHAT?
KRRRACK!
FIGURE OF SPEECH.

SHHK!
AWAY NOW, LITTLE ONES. DO NOT FORCE MY HAND.
JUST KILL THEM, OBI-WAN! THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU--THEY'RE BEASTS!
SSSSSS...
SZZZK!
I THINK THEY UNDERSTOOD ME VERY WELL, GRECKER.

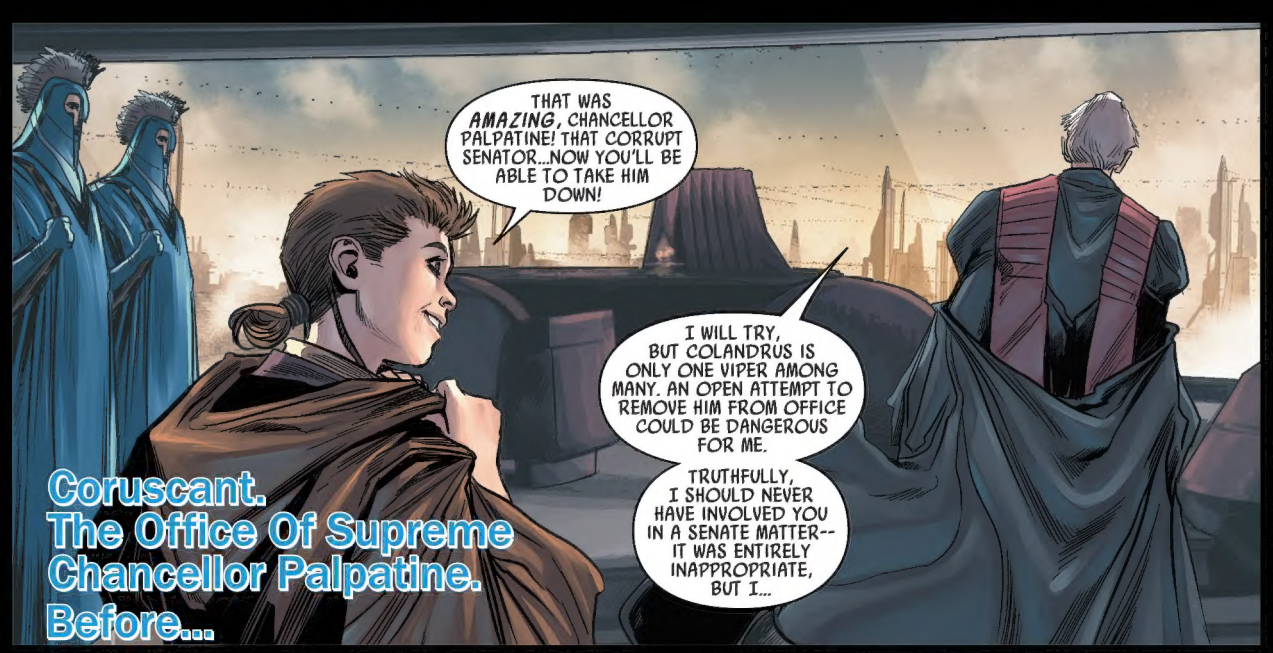
MOTHER PRAN AND KOLARA TOOK YOUR BOY AND FLEW AWAY WITH HIM.
TRAITOROUS OPEN ANIMALS. YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM, NOT FOR A MOMENT.
WHERE DID THEY TAKE HIM?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW... I--
WHERE DID THEY TAKE ANAKIN, GRECKER?
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE. MAYBE BACK TO ONE OF THEIR FORTRESSES...THEY BURROW INTO MOUNTAINSIDES ABOVE THE CELADON SEA.
THEY'VE GOT NESTS ALL OVER THE PLACE. YOU'LL NEVER FIND HIM. I'M SORRY.
I DON'T NEED TO FIND HIM. ANAKIN KNOWS WHERE I'M HEADED. HE HAS THE COORDINATES OF THE DISTRESS SIGNAL. HE'LL FIND ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S JUST A CHILD.
NO. NOT REALLY.
I'M LEAVING. YOU MAY COME WITH ME OR STAY HERE.

I'LL COME. BUT BEFORE WE GO, WAIT. ONE THING.
WHAT?
WE'RE ON FOOT NOW, WALKING IN THE CELADON SEA. WE'LL NEED THESE, 'LESS WE WANT TO END UP LIKE THOSE FISHERS.
THE DAMNED OPEN POISONED THE AIR DURING THE WAR. NO GOOD FOR THINKING PEOPLE DOWN HERE ANYMORE.
MOTHER PRAN CLAIMED YOU CLOSED STARTED THE WAR.
YOU CAN'T TRUST A THING THEY SAY. THEY LIE, OBI-WAN.
MM. LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION, GRECKER.
DOES IT MATTER?

Away.
Fortress-Home
Of The Open.

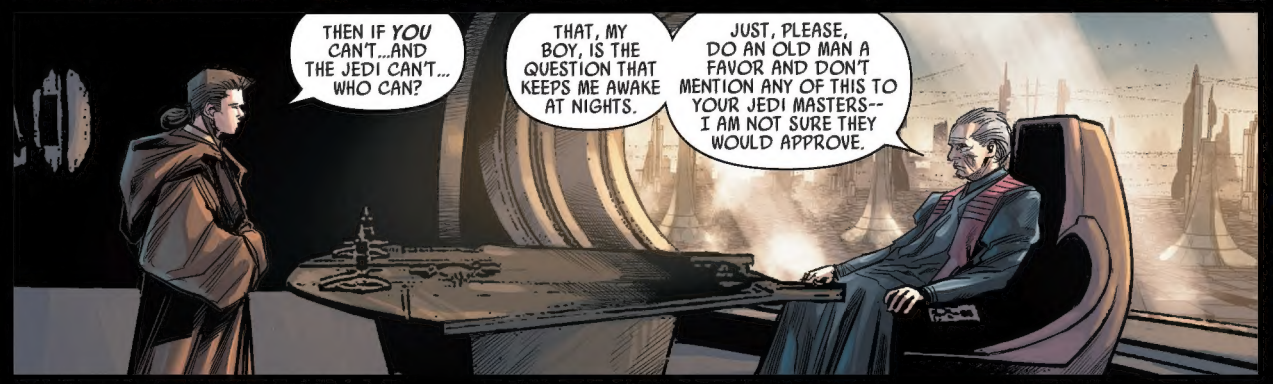
MOTHER PRAN. KOLARA. WHO IS THIS? A PRISONER?
IS HE OPEN OR CLOSED?
NEITHER. HE'S SKYGIFT.
A GIFT, INDEED.
HERE. I'LL SHOW YOU.
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT OUR NEW YOUNG FRIEND.
HIS NAME IS ANAKIN SKYWALKER.

VRRRR
HE IS VERY GOOD WITH MACHINES.
THE DROID! HE-- HE FIXED IT!
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. WE CAN FINALLY...WE CAN FINALLY DESTROY THE CLOSED.
WE CAN ACTUALLY WIN THE WAR.
I KNOW. IT'S WONDERFUL.
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO ANAKIN.
HE'S SAVED US ALL.


THAT WAS AMAZING, CHANCELLOR PALPATINE! THAT CORRUPT SENATOR...NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM DOWN!
I WILL TRY, BUT COLANDRUS IS ONLY ONE VIPER AMONG MANY. AN OPEN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE HIM FROM OFFICE COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR ME.
TRUTHFULLY, I SHOULD NEVER HAVE INVOLVED YOU IN A SENATE MATTER--IT WAS ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE, BUT I...
Coruscant.
The Office Of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine.
Before...

BUT YOU HAVE THE JEDI. YOU CAN ORDER THEM TO DO IT FOR YOU.

ANAKIN, THE JEDI ARE NOT MINE. THEY ARE UNDER SENATORIAL AUTHORITY. ASKING THEM TO ARREST A SENATOR... WELL, IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MATTER.
IF THEY WERE REQUIRED TO OBEY MY COMMANDS IN SUCH A WAY, IT WOULD MAKE ME NO MORE THAN A DICTATOR. THAT IS NOT MY WISH.


THEN IF YOU CAN'T...AND THE JEDI CAN'T... WHO CAN?
THAT, MY BOY, IS THE QUESTION THAT KEEPS ME AWAKE AT NIGHTS.
JUST, PLEASE, DO AN OLD MAN A FAVOR AND DON'T MENTION ANY OF THIS TO YOUR JEDI MASTERS--I AM NOT SURE THEY WOULD APPROVE.

NO...I GUESS THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T.
ANAKIN...IT'S NOT MY PLACE, BUT CAN I ASK YOU IF YOU ARE HAPPY IN THE TEMPLE?

OF COURSE. TRAINING TO BECOME A JEDI IS ALL I'VE EVER WANTED...
I SEE.
I FEEL THAT I OWE YOU, ANAKIN. YOU PERFORMED A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO ME WHEN MY HOME PLANET WAS UNDER ATTACK.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE IS ALWAYS A PLACE FOR YOU WITH ME. ONCE YOUR TRAINING IS COMPLETE, OF COURSE.
I COULD MAKE EXTRAORDINARY USE OF A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOURSELF.

The Jedi Temple.
Later...
YOU WISH TO STEP AWAY FROM YOUR TRAINING? ANAKIN, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS DECISION.
YOU CANNOT MAKE IT LIGHTLY, AND AT YOUR YOUNG AGE, IT IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT. THE CONSEQUENCES...
I UNDERSTAND, MASTER. I KNOW ABOUT SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS.
DO YOU KNOW HOW I JOINED THE ORDER? I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN.
MY MOTHER ASKED QUI-GON IF HE WOULD TAKE ME AWAY, IF I WOULD BECOME A JEDI.
HE SAID YES, AND THAT WAS ALL. MY ENTIRE LIFE, DECIDED RIGHT THEN. I WAS NINE YEARS OLD.
QUI-GON SAID JEDI TRAINING WAS DIFFICULT. THAT IT WOULD BE A HARD LIFE.
I SAW A MAGIC MAN, WITH A SWORD MADE OUT OF LIGHT AND A STARSHIP.
I WAS A SLAVE, ON A WORLD MADE OF DUST. WHAT WAS I GOING TO SAY?
NO?

I KNOW MY TRAINING ISN'T COMPLETE. I HAVE MORE TO LEARN, AND I KNOW I COULD LEARN SOME OF IT FROM YOU AND THE OTHER JEDI.
BUT NOT ALL OF IT.
I CAN FEEL THE GALAXY CALLING TO ME, MASTER. I NEED TO ANSWER. I DON'T WANT TO WAIT.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FOREVER. I CAN ALWAYS COME BACK.
ANAKIN...
VERY WELL.

Now...
THIS IS WHERE THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL CAME FROM? JUST ANOTHER RUIN.
I SEE THAT. BUT SOMEHOW, A CALL FOR JEDI AID ORIGINATED HERE.
YOU KNOW WHO SENT IT, DON'T YOU?
WHAT? NO, OF COURSE NOT. EVERYTHING DOWN HERE IS DEAD.
NOTHING CAN SURVIVE. NOT SINCE THE OPEN KILLED THE WORLD.
YOU THINK WE'D ALL LIVE ON THOSE FREEZING MOUNTAINTOPS IF WE HAD A CHOICE?
MM. AND THE KITES?
OR THE SUDDEN WILLINGNESS OF YOU AND MOTHER PRAN TO WORK TOGETHER THE MOMENT YOU HEARD THAT I WAS LOOKING FOR A SIGNAL SENT FROM THE WASTES?
I'M NOT A FOOL, GRECKER.
YOU KNOW, YOU KEEP INSISTING THAT THIS WORLD IS DEAD...

KTTTTTKKK
...I'M NOT SURE I FULLY AGREE.
OH... NO.
SNNK!
STAY BACK. I'LL HANDLE IT.
BY THE STARS...
...JEDI.
KSSHACK!

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
I...I WAS JUST CALLING FOR HELP.
HELP? I TOLD YOU...
GRAAAKKKTT!
...I HAVE THIS.
HNH.
IN HERE! NOW!

THANK YOU! I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!
SHUT UP AND GET IN HERE, OR YOU WILL BE, AND ME BESIDES.
NOW, JUST TO GET THAT JEDI OVER HERE...
NO. CLOSE THAT DOOR... RIGHT NOW, OR I'LL--
NO, YOU WON'T.
SERVES ME RIGHT FOR TRYING TO DO A GOOD TURN, I SUPPOSE.
ZZACK!
SSSSSK!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
HE WAS TRYING TO GET ME TO CLOSE THE DOOR, LEAVE YOU OUT THERE FOR THE BEASTS.
COME ALONG, JEDI. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?

HOPE.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, JEDI?

OBI-WAN KENOBI.

MM. MY NAME IS SERA.

THIS PLACE IS MY LIFE'S WORK.

REMNANTS OF THE WORLD THAT WAS, SALVAGED FROM THE DEAD LANDS OUTSIDE.

SEEDS FOR A NEW FUTURE.

YOU SEND UP THE KITES.

YES. SMALL THINGS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME THEY WILL FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE HANDS OF PEOPLE RECEPTIVE TO WHAT THEY REPRESENT.

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE OLD GENERATION--THEIR SOULS ARE AS POISONED AS THIS WORLD. BUT THE YOUNG... THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE IN THE YOUNG.

YOU SENT THE SIGNAL? YOU CALLED FOR THE JEDI?

I DID.

WHY? YOU SEEM CAPABLE OF HANDLING YOURSELF WELL ENOUGH.

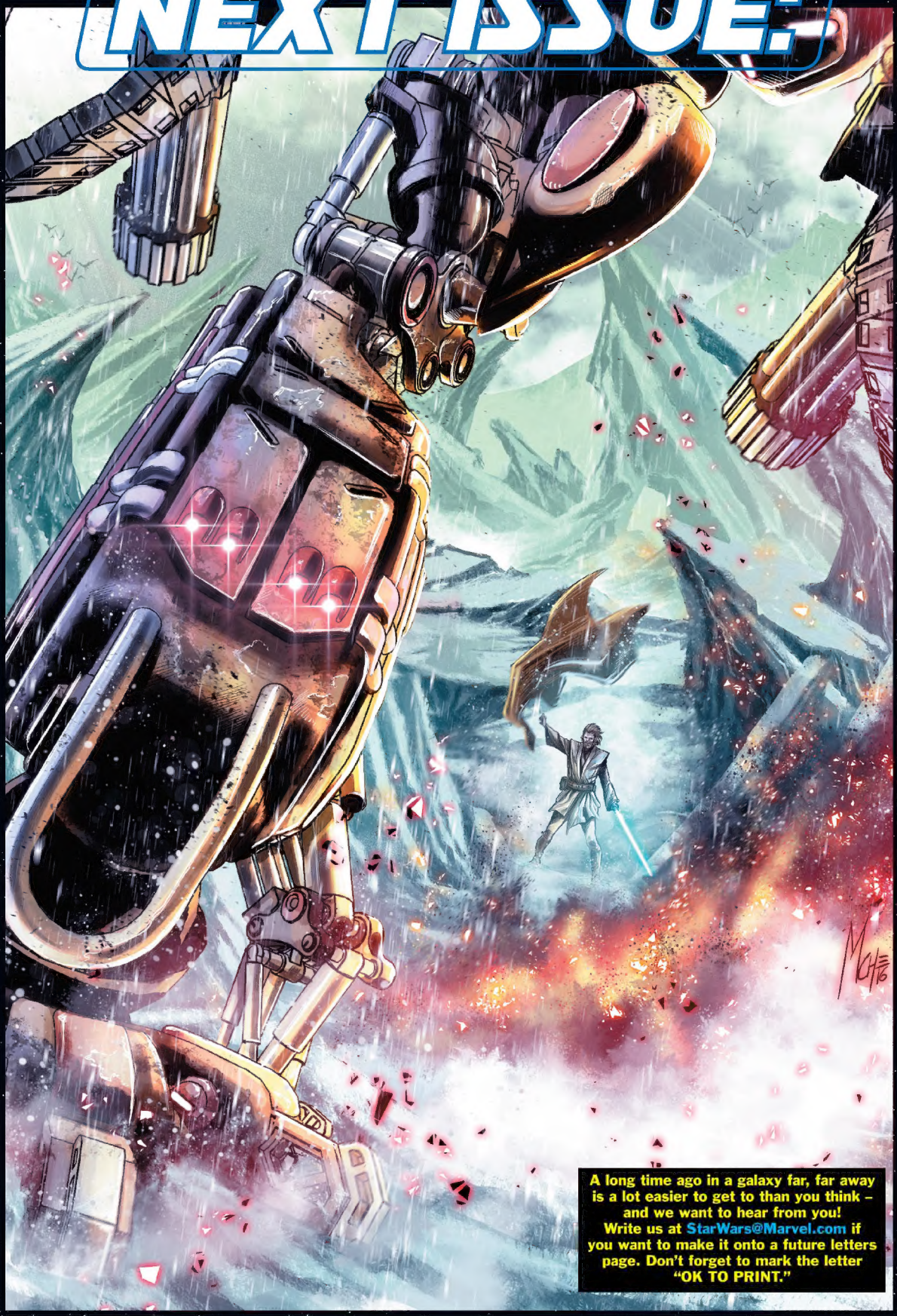
YES. BUT I AM OLD. I WILL BE DEAD SOON. I NEED SOMEONE TO FINISH MY WORK.
I SCAVENGE THIS WORLD, SEARCHING FOR ANYTHING BEAUTIFUL. ANYTHING THAT STILL WORKS.
FROM TIME TO TIME, I'VE FOUND RECORDS OF GREAT WARRIORS, PEOPLE OF IMMENSE STRENGTH, WITH SWORDS OF LIGHT SIMILAR TO YOURS.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD WILL NEVER COME TOGETHER WILLINGLY. THEY ARE TOO FOCUSED ON THE RIVALRY THAT SPLIT THIS PLANET IN HALF.
THEY MUST BE *MADE* TO. I DO NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH...BUT FROM WHAT I SAW, THE JEDI DO.
IT MAY BE EASIER THAN YOU BELIEVE, SERA.
I TRAVELED HERE WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH RACES. THEY WORKED *TOGETHER*, AND--
HA!
IF THAT IS TRUE, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE YOU PRESENTED THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND *ME*.
BOTH CLOSED AND OPEN HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ME FOR AS LONG AS THEY'VE KNOWN OF MY EXISTENCE. THEY WANT ME *DEAD*, JEDI.

"THE CLOSED AND OPEN WISH TO FORGET THE OLD TIME, OBI-WAN. NO, THEY WISH TO ERASE IT."
ANAKIN, THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE NEED TO KNOW THE LOCATION OF THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL.
GRECKER WAS PLOTTING AGAINST OBI-WAN ALL ALONG. HE WANTS YOUR MASTER TO LEAD HIM TO THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL... AND THEN HE'LL KILL HIM.
"THE THINGS I'VE GATHERED, THE BITS OF ART I SEND UP ON THE KITES--THEY JUST REMIND THE LEADERS OF EVERYTHING THEY'VE LOST. HOW BADLY THEY'VE FAILED."
NOW THAT YOU'VE HELPED US ACTIVATE THE MECHS, WE CAN GO SAVE HIM. WE CAN SAVE EVERYONE.
WE JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO GO.
"THEY WANT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING HERE MORE THAN THEY WANT TO DESTROY EACH OTHER. THAT'S THE ONLY REASON THEY WORKED TOGETHER."
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING, MOTHER PRAN. BUT SO WAS GRECKER.
THE DISTRESS SIGNAL WAS LOCATED ANOTHER HALF DAY'S TRAVEL PAST WHERE THE FISHERS ATTACKED, ON THAT SAME HEADING.
NOW, LET'S GO SAVE MY MASTER.
"IT'S TOO LATE FOR THEM, OBI-WAN."
NO, ANAKIN. YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE TO RISK. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY.
"CLOSED, OPEN...THEY ONLY UNDERSTAND ONE THING--"
KOLARA. YOU AND THE OTHER YOUTHS--STAY HERE. WATCH OVER ANAKIN.
WE'LL BE BACK SOON.

"--WAR."
To be continued...

OBI-WAN & ANAKIN

NEXT ISSUE:



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."